

4/24/72

Dear Bud,

As soon as I had supper, I dubbed your tapes of your Ray interview of, I presume, yesterday. There are a number of problems. For one thing, they are not nearly as long as you said. You have less than one full side on the first, which is less than 45 minutes, and about half on the second cassette. The second side of the first cassette seems to be "ogish" on Cavett. If you had fixed this so it would not record and then used that side on Ray, you have nothing. The Noguchi side is unlabelled. I have not altered this.

So, there may be part of your interview that is unrecorded, and it can be a major part of it. However, on the key this, what you have recorded is not really what you told me. You got to where you read what I asked you to read to him. He may or may not have intended to evade, but on the basis of the tape, he did not and you, not he, changed the subject. You switched to Lisbon, Scotland Yard and his being followed for a week, and the needs of the government because of the RFK assassination. Neither of you, based on what you have on tape, returned this this key thing. On the basis of the tape, I can't honestly say or believe that it is he who evaded. This in itself is enough to make me reconsider and go there, but that is up to you. He has to understand this, and I am hesitant to try this by mail. I do not want to make this clear to the government.

"Now, on "life, it is exactly as you recalled. There is a long break in the tape, and I presume that is because he was reading it. You then read parts of it aloud, but stopped to soon. Considering the condition of your voice, it is remarkable that you could talk as much as you did. But you failed to go into how Rife was put away, into all those who had had any contact with Ray being put away, into the Springfield part, etc.

When I got home I learned that Bill Fields had called me. He had been told by Jerry that there is a major dispute between us on whether James should be on the show. I was taken by surprise, for Jerry seems to have told him that I controlled James' decision on this. I had discussed this earlier with Fields and told him that James refused to make any appearances, including on TV, to make any statements, and that I knew you had told the warden not to refer any more requests to you, that the answer on all was absolutely no. I told Fields I did not control Ray, but that I did disagree with both Stoner and Jerry on their constant efforts to engage in meaningless publicity, that I felt Ray could not help himself by anything he could say, that anything he might say had the potential of hurting him, and that while I could understand his desire to have something like this on his show, Jimmy had turned down much more important and attractive offers that I, personally, had taken to him. I assured Fields I did not control Ray and if I did I'd have more knowledge and fewer problems. He wants something of possible news value from Ray. I thought it over, recalled something - have that involves no violation of confidence, not used and not requiring any public disclosure of our relationship, phoned him back, offered it to him, and he seems to be satisfied. I also told him if he had any doubt about your positive opposition to any statement from Ray to phone you, that despite his contrary representations Stoner is not counsel and you are.

A few comments on the things he said that we did not discuss. He had gotten something from Louisiana the day before and had given it to the warden to return. Now this should not have been given to him and should have been sent automatically to you. We got the McKillan mangus opus and he should not have. That also should have been sent to you.

You did not press your very good point on Stoner's friends. Here I think you should have gone a bit further and that it should be done, probably by me, as I have slightly in writing. He avoided Rife's ref to his arrest prior to the assassination until you returned to it. At that point he disclosed a remarkable knowledge of Birmingham jail procedures for a man never jailed there. "I don't know if there was anyone else at the Rebel Motel." Perhaps not in terms of registration, but he sure as hell met others there and he told me about this in detail and that is one point they had to get prints. It is not clear whether he is referring to the De Soto only where he refers to poor records, but if he intended including the New Level, baloney. They have good records. His story on his begira after the ass is exactly as he gave it to me, with fewer details.

He made a reference to something apparently to you labelled "for attorneys only". If there is anything in it of which I should know, I have not been told of it before that I can recall. Maybe I have it. I will return your machine at the point where you read him what I had asked you to so you can understand my opening point. HW